**Manoa Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, April 23, 2025**

**In Attendance:**

*President: Kristen Osborne*

*Vice President: Erin Canuso*

*Recognition Secretary: Elizabeth Marshaleck*

*Corresponding Secretary: Katie Mummey*

*Treasurer: Kevin Moran*

*Recording Secretary: Maggie Fox*

Kate Laepple Hertzog, Jenni Dziewit, Maggie Esteves, Jessica Lazzaro, MaryAlice Hartsock, Liz Meischeid, Dr. Adelizzi (principal), Mrs. Gray (Second Grade Teacher), Dr. Kim McKay And Mr. Dave Schwartz (Haverford Township School Board), Dr. Horan (Middle School Principal), Stephanie Smith (Middle School PTO representative), Mr. Anthony Device (Haverford Blast Representative)

**School Board Member Introductions & Discussion**

Dr. Kim McKay: I am currently working for Penn doing curriculum development and evaluation for gender & sexuality, human development, policy, ethics, individual and family counseling and communication. My background is in Social Work and I have a small counseling practice. This year, I am up for re-election.

Dave Schwartz: I was elected to serve on the School Board in 2019 and re-elected in 2023. My background is in Engineering. The School Board has 3 committees including finance (which I am on), Pupil Services & Curriculum, and Policy. We have a School Board meeting tomorrow where we will be voting on coopertown renovations.

We are here today to say “Hi” and answer any questions

Dave Schwartz: We have no renovations currently scheduled for Manoa; we have many buildings and have to cycle through renovations. We chose Chatham Park and Coopertown because they have modules where student classrooms are outside the building. Our goal is to get all students inside.

Dr Adelizzi: Over the summer, we have touch ups such as putting up fencing outside for a snack area, painting under the awning, and addressing door issues. If you notice anything that needs to be fixed, you can report it to the principal to be addressed.

Dr. Kim McKay: There is not an official cell phone policy, district administrators are aware that this needs to be updated. Building to building, there are practices around cell phones. In the Grade schools, the phones are to be kept in each student’s backpack and can’t be touched during the day. In the Middle School, no phones can be out. In the high school, phone policies vary depending on the classroom.

Dave Schwartz & Dr. Kim McKay: Phones are not used or needed for anything school wise and the entire curriculum can be done without a cell phone.

Dr. Kim McKay: Teacher feedback is necessary to formulate the policies. Our committee meetings are open and public, and also recorded. You can make a comment at any action OR committee meeting. Committee meetings are more laid back. Action Meetings, you may speak at the beginning if you are speaking about something we are voting on, or at the end. The length of the meetings can vary. At our next meeting, we are voting to do solar energy at Coopertown Elementary.

There will be an Upper Grade Zoom Meeting with Dr. Hayes this month

Anthony DeVice: In regards to Chatham Park’s Construction, when will the kids be moving into one of the new wings?

Dave Schwartz: It was delayed because of the harsh winter. We have no specific timeline, but it should be sometime this summer.

Dr. Kim McKay: We appreciate all of the work of the PTO and all they do to make the kid’s lives better. We are hoping to come to more PTO meetings to show community pride and civic engagement.

**Faculty Reports:**

Dr. Adelizzi:

* PSSAs are happening now. We are trying to keep pressure low for the kids. They are prepared. We tell them “You got this!” and “try your best, because your best is good enough”
* We are excited for the Mustang Mile
* The Art and music showcase is May 16
* The Science Fair is coming up May 7 in the evening
* We are gearing up for Teacher Appreciation week in a couple weeks
* Manoa’s cell phone policy is that they are away at all times and are not allowed to be used during the school day
* The amount of work you guys do to make this a great place is second to none

Mrs. Gray:

* Kindergarten and First Grade did want to say a special thank you for helping to sponsor our animal show to conclude Module 2 for Wit and Wisdom on May 29
* May 16 is our Art Show and Mrs. Drury is looking for parent volunteers. She requested the PTO to share the signup genius link so she knows when and who is coming
* Thank you for everything you always do!

*Elizabeth gave Mrs. Gray a Manoa blanket*

**Haverford Middle School PTO:** Ms. Stephanie Smith

* PTO emails from the Middle School will come in July to new families
* We can’t officially ask for your emails
* Coming up, we have a Food truck event, teacher staff appreciation week, and will have a table at the track meet
* May 19 is our next meeting
* We do have board positions open

**Haverford Middle School Principal:** Dr. Horan

* My kids went through the district. I have worked at Manoa Elementary School and now Haverford Middle School so I have a good understanding of what is happening in the schools.
* For the transition process, we started by talking to elementary schools and gathering global quantitative data (how are they doing in math, etc.). We are now talking about specific kids and will come down to talk to the teachers and guidance counselors to gather more data.
* We will be making recommendations to families about leveling math and ELA. Recommendations will be sent home to families in the summer either the last week of July or first week of August.
* We are open to feedback from families and will have a conversation if we’re not on the same page.
* ELA, math, Science and Social Studies are the classes held every day; Science and Social Studies are not leveled.
* We hold quarterly meetings to see if kids need to move levels.
* Getting to know the school from kids perspective: We have Unity Day to get integrated with everyone in the district followed by a tour of the building.
* The schedule is given more than a month before school starts so kids can take a self guided tour and find their classrooms and administrators can answer questions. Some kids come once, some come 3-4 times.
* We used to have a week and a half orientation but the kids didn’t like that, so the orientation was 2 days. We re interviewed the kids, and now the new orientation plan will be a day and a half with different structure based on kids input and staff input.
* The challenging thing about middle school is that developmentally and physically there is a lot of brain development. The kids at that age can be impulsive, risk taking, and value friends over family.
* The great thing about our middle school is the size; kids will find their people there.
* It’s an incredible environment, a great facility, and unbelievable teachers.
* Covid rattled everyone, but the middle school recovered very quickly.
* Be prepared for your kids to be totally different as a 7th grader than they were as a 4th or 5th grader.
* There are a lot of new skills to learn that they will learn on the job; we are here to support people.
  + Example- my daughter was at the middle school and knew I worked for the district. She is a rule follower,and an overachiever. One day, she complained about one of her teachers. I said “you seem like you have a problem, you better fix that” and she never came home and complained again. It is tough navigating middle schoolers and parenting is different for everyone. The bottom line is reach out to us first if there is a concern to verify things and get perspective; we are very open to talking.
* Middle school goes quickly, it's just 3 years. There is a slow progression in K-5 grades developmentally, but 6th-8th grade is quick development with tons of energy.

Jenni Dziewit: There are 2 weeks open for the self guided tours with morning session one week and afternoon session one week. If you cannot make it, it’s okay! The orientation happens first 2 days of school, not before it starts

Dr. Horan: Knock up if you see a car parked outside the school over the summer, we will let you in!

Kate Hertzog: Toot your horn about your team! Sixth graders are kept close and in teams to make it feel like a small school.

Nicole Bumbaugh: The hardest part for my son was lunch; but a plan was made and help was given with guidance to make it easier for him.

Dr. Horan:

* The biggest point of anxiety was the lockers so the locks were changed and kids can bring their own lock they can practice using over the summer.
* Some kids can eat in the library if they want and need a quieter space. The connecting corridor is open to eating for 7th and 8th graders.

Nicole Bumgaugh: I recommend getting a binder that zips closed because they can’t carry backpacks.

Dr. Horan: We will help kids who struggle with organization get organized during advisory.

Liz Meischeid: My son is loving the middle school. His GIEP teachers are amazing. He has a history class as told with a musical side. If your child has a GIEP, I highly recommend keeping them in.

Kristen Osborne: What makes you value your position?

Dr. Horan: I love working in the community where I live. I feel committed to the community and have benefited personally from our schools. I love the people I work with. It’s a great place.

*Elizabeth Marshaleck gave Dr. Horan a blanket*

**After Prom BLAST:** Mr. Device:

* I have a senior and a sophomore in college
* BLAST is a post senior prom party at the highschool. This will be the 32nd year. It started after a bad car accident after prom involving alcohol. BLAST is to give kids something to do rather than party after prom. It goes from 11:30 pm- 4:00 am with raffles drawn at 3:00 am. The kids can only go home if their parents sign them out
* From 8:00-10:00 pm May 9 the community can walk through to see it.
* The High School is elaborately decorated with a theme, this year it is “global celebrations.” The front is a party theme with a giant dome structure with a gold mannequin DJ inside. At the first entrance, bags are taken from them and they get a bag with raffle tickets and fake money. The theme will be “Havertown Rave.” The big lobby theme will be “Halloween.” The rest of the themes include: 4th of July, New Years Eve, Mardi Gras, Carnivale, Diwali, Day of the Dead, Ice Festival, and Chinese New Year.
* The cafe will have food and drinks donated by community businesses. The coffee house will sell coffee, iced tea, and hot tea.
* We will have a fortune teller room with 2 fortune tellers. They are seasoned and experienced and into their craft. There will also be an airbrush tattoo artist, karaoke, and a jukebox. The gym is full of moon bounce items, sumo wrestling costumes, and inflatable axe throwing. We have a heavily chaperoned crash room where kids can nap, hang out, and relax. The Casino is the most popular part. There are 8 black jack and poker tables, roulette, plinko, another dice game, and a blow up cash grab. There is a store they can purchase items such as college sweatshirts and gift cards with their winnings.
* We raffle off 25-28 items including ipads, airpods, apple watches, and dorm essentials. They have to be there to win.
* BLAST is funded by donations. The High School funds the bounce houses for $5000 but the rest costs about $15,000
* We usually give $4000-5000 to the next class to get them started
* I will come back next year, but help is needed. The food person is not coming back, more help with fundraising is needed, and we will need a prize person. Usually we have 70- something volunteers to decorate.
* After Covid, 250 kids came but in 2023, 400 came. Last year 450 came and this year we expect over 500.
* We have police officers on hand and school administrators are there until around midnight.
* BLAST is free to any senior and guest whether you go to the prom or not.
* We create an Amazon wish list for raffle baskets, and a signup genius for food, mainly food and beverages. Most of the other food is donated. The signup was full within 2 hours. A signup genius for prizes is coming out to high school parents tomorrow. $1500 is usually spent on prizes. We will be posting the signups on community Facebook pages.

*PTO donated $500 to BLAST*

**Motion to Approve March Meeting Minutes:** Jenni Dziewit and Nicole Bumbaugh

**Treasurer's report:** Kevin Moran

* Quizzo was successful
* Mustang Mile has a lot of registrations and sponsors
* We made $5600 between Super Bowl block pool and Manoa Madness
* Chipotle fundraiser made $250
* March Madness Block Pool: 60/100 squares sold; 40 squares left were given to the PTO to keep the payout, which was the fairest way. $625 made on that fundraiser

**Yearbook:** Kristen Osborne for Carie Litz

* Early May is the last day to purchase yearbooks

**Manoa Madness & Quizzo:** Liz Meischeid

* Manoa Madness had a huge turnout with some takeaways for improvement. The kids had a blast. The highschool basketball team and coach were there to help.
* Quizzo was very successful. We had great prizes, the MC was amazing, and the new location worked out really well. Courtney and I are happy to continue to take it on next year.

**IDC:** Jenni Dziewit

* In April we discussed Diversity and Inclusion and our current district goals.
* Please reference PDF deck addressing D&I Goals: [D&I Goals](https://mail-attachment.googleusercontent.com/attachment/u/0/?ui=2&ik=34c3358816&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1830764010993704199&th=19682e2b0ed95d07&view=att&zw&disp=inline&saddbat=ANGjdJ-sC89rDY0v4aHQU_ofFT9ZB1YgwsUVs3idKJLZJqRxOII5Z9QcV68N4GA3Ay4y5XaGeoCBePqQnV_QNynJJ-Wk5oUw3Hms9GUIKSbk7cfAXrCG3Xvp2sx0QonT5mg_4Y5401DWIAnfgHs_BJij7bSEFepJ5M77wez5iRnlHeWiNuS_j1XhSF-MMkdbBq6lZr3lE-D5jIXMd6PDMHAOzvH_WBJdJYyP65tjQp75nuBF7CW8rv3G8JvIZhE_H2F49nSW0wQ4MjZSozVJkAzXz3z7WqkEyk-onMxJAwPm4Yf8NfzD1U2zNcJdN04dBVRUcHNTbF_M8dNu--mj_gWVLMUnnHLOucF_1zs6KhpBFq3o40wg1geTmgVIvfW6QPowMCO-n52nLxy7YEkJQ9pfUamBOXz2Y3DlRnNKJUi-ZCemSC-Mpdb1Xtze-BJKhnZ7RhIN6ON62lcqGZ6UMC3GSzAkWJgHHkbwPfegwW8oQ6Q7l7MdV9DkPA1hgk_9KQadhaWZCnAMQC9GhLLD1N9HWHugs8IAZpkmZEc6uv5yCBxrBERe1G3t80YF9TKSKWCEx-KemoLQV-9UgDuHNRz3zn47L5FJHYUTrYbtefgL64-7u4X_4bgOuhzERQ6NPjMo_FnYmvo32q9io0nAM3mTBDsGgEF7-xK5nf3QA02DXEHUI0HFsiL_BIL8vrsAHd2woYFYRHRoEtO6WAzJV0c_VVG1-1UyEAgTRuvcmvyBRGQSYgBLukSGe2o4VZTKgVgMiJWaIRli3rTPbmZJtQkQc0KP8m8CkAycthp1ySojRdMUjbv821IaFzW7myT4_9wQZ6UcDyeN_DGjB84Ewac9k9pozoU-do_IFV_nTAyQG3d3wDesTrG9KoCvNoEwb4YrTJptwuwAjbIkkDHJGbJMyUEN_fMaeJpaRvCM3r4d2myA3UU6tZmqw9sbv_1LttcqWHedkIDOdj3OVwrOPfp0vpXu2QobmP0_zzlcUJCAYbcZ7rpOCosr__mI4a7X-2v2OeWBGsN7OyKk52ce)
* Takeaways: D&I goals include actions for both students and faculty and staff
* The student PSSM surveyed 4th and 5th graders and 6-12 to check on kid’s feelings of belonging within the school community. Leadership opportunities come out of PSSM for students to represent the district.
* New D&I goals will be finalized for next year so wording will be different, but efforts will continue.
* We will have Eid off, the holiday that ends Ramadan. 100 students in the district missed school this year to observe the holiday. Absences are excused for religious reasons.

**Fundraising**: Maggie Fox for Sarah Charlton

* The next fundraiser will be Rita’s (500 West Chester Pike) May 7th from 4:00-8:00 pm with 10% of proceeds donated to the PTO.
* Go to the science fair and then head to Rita’s and get a treat!

**Environmental Club Efforts:** Maggie Esteves & Jessica Lazzaro

* Broken writing utensils are being collected this week
* Recycling is done through Staples, anything still usable will be diverted to Teacher’s Teammates.
* Beat up lunch boxes and backpacks can be diverted to Staples for recycling.
* We are working on getting tree planting set up.

**Fifth Grade End of Year:** Kate Hertzog

* We are running a poll for our class gift and are deciding between pint glass,a fleece blanket, or a donation to The Haverford Education Foundation.
* Last year, the gifts were water bottles.

Elizabeth Marshaleck: Yard sign order forms were sent out today in the kid’s folders

**Scholarship**: Kate Hertzog

* We are working on our first annual Manoa Scholarship.
* We had 30 applications.
* The students talked about what a wonderful community Manoa is, and how it made them good humans.
* The process: Kristen Osborne received the essays, made them anonymous, and passed them to the selection committee consisting of the PTO Board Members, Nicole Bumbaugh, Elena Alma, Kate Hertzog, and Beth Huffman, Mrs. Butler, Mrs. Wurth, and Mrs. Hale. Everyone submitted their top 3 votes in a google form. The High school counselor will get # 1, #2, and #3 picks; and then will determine who will receive the scholarship.
* The winner will be revealed at High School Senior Awards Night on June 5.
* It was a heart warming process with staff members mentioned with specific memories.
* Dr. Addelizi was a great guide.
* Beth will take over next year but there is an open co-chairperson position; It’s not a difficult thing to do.

**Mustang Mile:** Erin Canuso

* It will be held Saturday May 3 at 9:00 am.
* It’s a quick and easy dayl you are in and out in a half hour
* Fundraising is part of this effort; so far we have over 130 students, and over $7,000 raised with 10 days to go.
* There are fantastic incentives, including getting to pie Dr. Adelizzi and classroom popsicle parties.
* Teachers open to help and the teacher with the most registrations will win a $100 amazon gift card.

**Leveling ELA:** Dr. Adelizzi

* Our current practice is to level math in third through fifth grades and ELA in Fourth and Fifth grade. With the new ELA curriculum Wit and Wisdom, teachers have voiced to not level for Fourth and Fifth grade next year.
* We are looking for parent feedback on this change.

Kristen’s Osborne: I am floored by Wit and Wisdom. The kids are learning so much and applying it to life. I trust the teachers if that’s what they think is best.

Elizabeth Marshaleck: I think it’s important to have the kids switching classes to prepare them for middle school even if they are not leveled.

Nicole Bumbaugh: I think we should level. My son was not prepared for 6th grade and the amount of work given in the higher level ELA class in middle school. We need more group work in 6th grade to prepare them.

Liz Meischeid: In fifth grade, most of their homework can be done in class. It took a long time to adjust in sixth to having homework. I understand it’s an adjustment, but my concern is without leveling, does it make it easier for them so they are less prepared.

Maggie Esteves: Why do the teachers feel it's better not to level for Wit and Wisdom?

Dr. Adelizzi: Conversations can be limited on both ends. The kids are writing and sharing and they feel the conversations would be better for everyone if they are not homogenous.

Jenni Dziewit: It’s good to hear other perspectives, I just want the advanced ELA kids to be prepared for middle school

Kristen Osborne: Without leveling, teachers can still spot individual kids who may need extra work to challenge them.

Dr. Adelizzi: It is a district wide decision. We have an English Learners Family Night coming up. Manoa has by far the largest population of English learning students so we hope to have it here. We also have KIndergarten Signing Day coming up. Look out for a signup.